THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir, National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is generally progressing as per schedule.

(b) The Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) component is targeted for completion by December, 2004. The target is expected to be achieved except for small portions of 4% spilling beyond. North-South and East-West corridor component is targeted for completion by December, 2007 and this target is expected to be achieved.

(c) The spilling of some projects of Golden Quadrilateral beyond December, 2004 would be mainly on account of they being under litigation and one project being implemented with World Bank assistance whose procurement process takes time.

(d) The following efforts are being made by the Government to ensure completion of project as per schedule.

(i) Provision of bonus for early completion and penalty for delay, in civil works contracts.

(ii) Meetings with the States to resolve problems associated with land acquisition, shifting utilities, law and orders etc.

(iii) Taking up issues at the level of Minister with Chief Ministers of States through letters/meetings to resolve problems related to land acquisition, law and order etc.

(iv) Frequent review meetings at the level of Minister with Contractors/ Consultants/officials of NHAI.

(v) Regular monitoring through daily and weekly progress reports.

Monitoring of projects by Prime Minister

2691. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has decided to monitor projects such as Golden Quadrilateral and North-South, East-West Corridor Projects to improve performance of the ongoing works;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a decision has, recently, been taken to this effect in the Union Cabinet; and

(c) what are the other projects that are personally monitored by the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) These projects are being monitored at Prime Minister's level.

(b) Government have taken a decision to this effect.

(c) The details of other projects being monitored are given at Statement.

Statement

List of other projects being monitored by Prime Minister's office

Sl. No.	Names of projects being monitored by the Prime Minister's office
1.	Construction of Mughal road in Jammu & Kashmir
2.	Batot—Kishtwar—Sinthan pass Khanabal road declared, as NH-1B
3.	Widening of NH-53 (Imphal-Jiribam-Silchar-Badarpur road to NH double lane specifications
4.	Widening of NH-54 (Silchar-Aizwal) from Km 2.00 to Km 192.00 to NH double lane specifications
5.	Four laning of NH-39 (Dimapur-Chumukedima)
6.	Widening of NH-44 extn. (Agartala-Sabroom-131.03 Km) to NH 1W specifications
7.	Widening of NH 52-A from Itanagar to Gohpur (Km 0 to Km 29.37)
8.	Widening of NH-44 A Sairang to Manu sector from Manu to Simlung in Tripura to NH double lane specifications
9.	Widening of NH-62 from Dudhnal to Nangwalbibra Km 8.60 to Km 91.00 to NH double lane specifications
10.	Widening of NH-150 from Kohima-Jessami-Yaingongpopki (298 Kms) to NH double lane specifications

Sl. No.	Names of projects being monitored by the Prime Minister's office
11.	Widening of NH-151 from Karimganj to Sutarkandi (14.07 Kms)
12.	Access road to South and North Portal Rohtang Tunnel
13.	Construction of road to Nimu-Darcha-Padam alternate route to Leh-Ladakh
14.	Construction of Rohtang Tunnel

Steps to develop and boost SSI

2692. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to develop and boost the SSIs during the last four years;

(b) the number of persons employed in SSI during the said period; and

(c) the number of SSIs set up in the country during the last four years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Comprehensive Policy Package for the Small Scale Industries and Tiny Sector was announced on 30th August, 2000 which aims to ensure enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation. Some of the significant measures included in the policy package and those taken during last 4 years to develop and boost the SSIs are:—

(i) Raising the excise exemption limit for SSIs on first clearances of Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs, on annual turnover upto Rs. 300 lakhs.

(ii) Launching of Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for providing collateral free loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs.

(iii) Raising the composite loan limit from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 25 takhs.